

Sentence Fluency

Any activity that allows students to practice...

developing an ear by reading aloud

- literature, journalism, poetry, whatever –

practicing free-writing to make writing flow

using choral reading to hear phrasing

writing poetry

playing with sentences

1. People Sentences

Print individual words or short phrases (e.g. laughing like crazy, behind the barn, careening around the corner, Jonas and Isabella began, just then, etc.) on large cards, and deal them to students. Ask them to form sentences by lining up the cards showing face out. Move students around to change the results. Ask observers to read aloud as the players move. Discuss which phrases are moveable and which are not and WHY. See if students can figure out for themselves which people (cards) can be eliminated without ruining the sentence.

2. Choral Reading

Nothing helps kids see the difference a pause or inflection can make than to try and read a passage or poem aloud with other people – simultaneously. They have to carefully plan where to breath, stop, start, raise and lower their voices. They must study the text for clues that will help them decide how best to read the sentence or phrase. This is a terrific place to use some of your favorite poetry. One of mine is Paul Fleishman's *Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices*.